(c) The Small Coins (Offences) Act 1971 empowers the Government to take legal action against any person who melts or destroys small coins. Instructions to the Various State Governments/ Union Territories have been issued to take action in the light of the Small Coins (Offences) Act 1971, under report to this Ministry, immediatey whenever melting of coins for any purpose is reported. No such report has been received so far. In addition, steps have been taken by Government to keep the face value higher than the metal value of the coin so as to make any large scale meeting of coin for any commercial purpose economically not viable.

Suspension of officers of Punjab and Sind Bank of Jalandhar area on account of fictitious truck advances

2989. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 385 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st August, 1984 and state:

(a) whether the managers and officials of the Punjab and Sind Bank, Jalandhar area branches have since been placed under suspension on account of their involvement in truck scandal cases;

(b) whether all these fictitious truck loans were sanctioned by the then Zonal Manager, Amritsar, Mr. H. S. Nanda and that no action has been taken against him and as a reward he has been transferred to a bigger zonal office, *i.e.* Chandigarh; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to investigate into the involvement of the Zonal Manager, Mr. Nanda in the truck advance cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and, to the extent available and permissible under the provisions of the statutes governing banks and the customs and usages prevalent amongest bankers, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Unauthorised advances by the Juhu branch of Punjab and Sind bank, Bombay

2990. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Juhu (Bombay) branch of Punjab and Sind Bank has made unauthorised advances during 1980 to 1983 to the tune of Rs. 50 lakhs to different parties out of which a lot of persons are untraceable and seem to be fictitious;

(b) whether it is a fact that advances meant to be given to weaker sections, under DRI scheme have been given to such persons who do not come under this scheme;

(c) whether it is also a fact that branch managers responsible for these acts have been transferred to some other branches in the same capacity and no. action has been taken against them;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what steps are being taken to investigate the matter for taking necessary action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Punjab & Sind Bank has reported that during the period 1980-83, the Managers posted at Juhu (Bombay) Branch had made advances beyond their discretionary powers, amounting to approximately Rs. 20 lakhs. The Bank has also reported that some parties are not traceable now.

(b) The Bank has intimated that no case has come to its notice where advances under DRI Scheme has been given by its Juhu (Bombay) Branch to persons who did not come under this Scheme.

(c) to (e) The Bank has reported that the Branch Managers have been transferred to other branches in the same capacity. It has initiated disciplinary action against one of the Managers for his acts of omission and commission at